

12-2-1974

## Mrs. Tobin Armstrong to John C. Stennis, 2 December 1974

Anne Armstrong

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*Sen Stennis*

THE WHITE HOUSE ✓

WASHINGTON

December 2, 1974

Dear Senator Stennis:

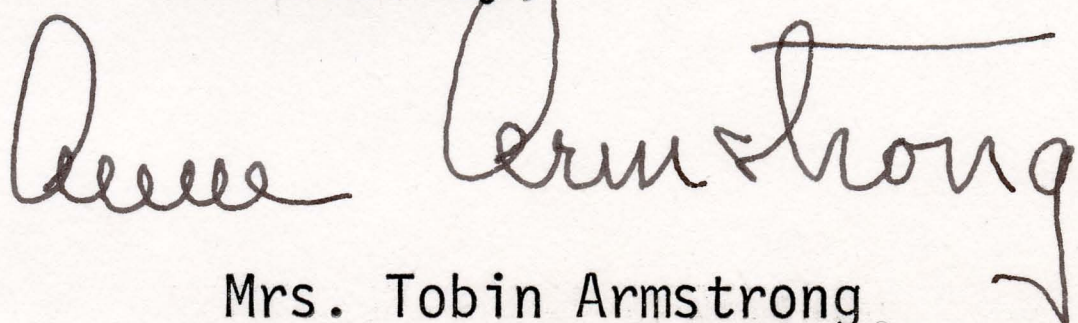
The President announced today the 8th Legacy of Parks transfer in Mississippi, representing a total of 862 acres, with a market value estimated at \$1,673,500.

The Legacy of Parks program takes on added significance during this period of fuel conservation because it provides recreational facilities in or near urban areas, close to where people live.

I am pleased to share this information with you, and I hope that this new parkland will be a source of real enjoyment for all your constituents.

Enclosed are a copy of the White House announcement, a fact sheet on Legacy of Parks, property information sheet, and a news release sent to selected Mississippi news media.

Sincerely,



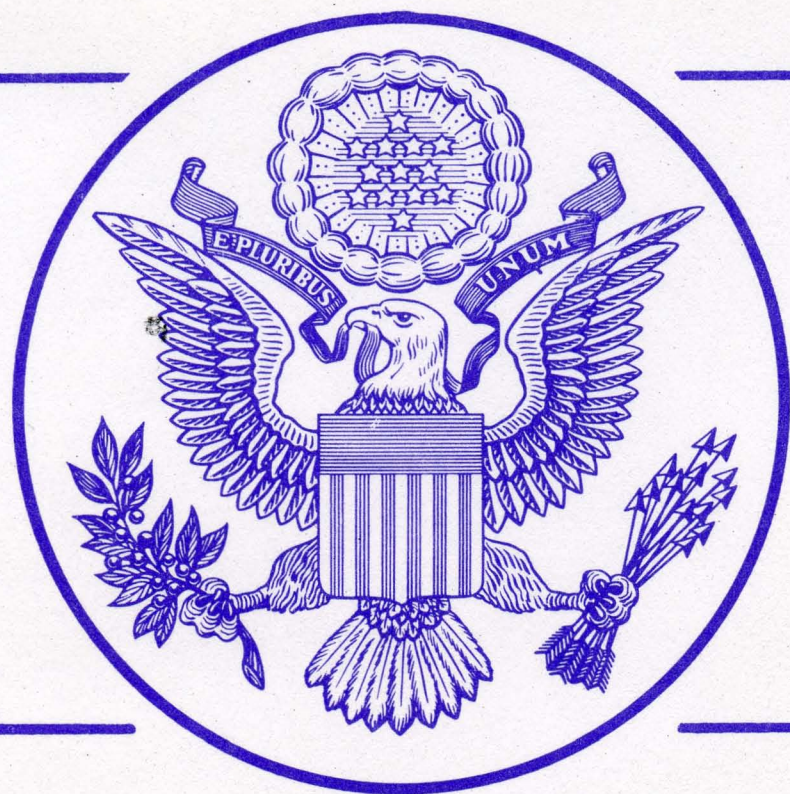
Mrs. Tobin Armstrong  
Counsellor to the President  
Chairman, Federal Property Council

Honorable John C. Stennis  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Enclosures



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
FEDERAL PROPERTY COUNCIL



*The President's  
Legacy of Parks*

PEARL RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI, RECEIVES FEDERAL LAND

UNDER THE LEGACY OF PARKS PROGRAM

Washington, D.C. -- Mrs. Anne Armstrong, Counsellor to the President and Chairman of the Federal Property Council, said today, "President Ford's announcement today of the transfer of Federal land to the Pearl River Basin Development District, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, is a major step forward in this Administration's commitment to the preservation of our nation's precious natural resources.

"The Legacy of Parks program takes on added significance during this period of fuel conservation because it provides recreational facilities in or near urban areas, close to where people live."

The Pearl River Basin Development District will develop the 328 acres of land formerly owned by the Mississippi Test Facility, valued at \$57,500, as an area park and recreation center to provide a variety of passive and active recreational facilities.

This marks the eighth Legacy of Parks transfer in Mississippi, representing a total of 862 acres, with an estimated market value of \$1,673,500.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
FEDERAL PROPERTY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

FACT SHEET

February, 1970

The President ordered a complete review of Federal property holdings in his Environmental Message to Congress:

"I propose that we adopt a new philosophy for the use of Federally-owned lands, treating them as a precious resource -- like money itself -- which should be made to serve the highest possible good."

The President observed that Federal real property:

- is the largest Federal asset, representing one-third of the Nation's geographic area.
- covers 760 million acres in 50 States, in several outlying areas, including Guam, and Puerto Rico, and in 129 foreign countries.
- includes 56 million acres acquired by the Government, of which 1.6 million acres are located in urban areas.

The President issued Executive Order 11508 establishing the Property Review Board, which:

- has identified underutilized Federal property which can be converted to park and recreation uses, particularly in locations close to where people live.
- has considered disputes regarding the utilization of specific Federal parcels and made recommendations to the President as to the use of Federal properties that promise the greatest public benefit.
- has encouraged and arranged for the joint use by the public of Federal properties in order to increase public access for recreational purposes.

October, 1970

A statute proposed in a Presidential Message to Congress and passed on October 22, 1970, enables the Federal Government to convey surplus real



property to State and local governments for park and recreation use at up to 100% discounts. In previous surplus transactions, the recipient had to pay 50% of the land's value -- and that was beyond the reach of most communities.

February, 1971

The President created the unique Legacy of Parks program.

"I have proposed a new 'Legacy of Parks' program which will help States and local governments provide parks and recreation areas, not just for today's Americans but for tomorrow's as well. Only if we set aside and develop such recreation areas now can we ensure that they will be available for future generations."

The Legacy of Parks:

- makes surplus Federal properties available for park and recreation use.
- is the first program of its kind in the Nation's history.
- is aimed at bringing recreation opportunities closer to where people live.

Legacy of Parks Milestones:

- March, 1971: The first Federal property under the Legacy of Parks program, a 128-acre parcel with an estimated value of \$1,106,000 was transferred to the County of Nassau in New York State.
- September, 1971: 2,936 acres of Pacific coastline, formerly a part of Camp Pendleton, valued at \$20,520,000, was leased to the State of California.
- April, 1972: The 100th Federal property to be made available to State and local governments under the President's program was transferred to St. Bernard Parish in a New Orleans, Louisiana, ceremony.
- October, 1972: President Nixon announced the 200th transfer of Federal property to the American people under his Legacy of Parks program.
- October, 1972: State or local governments in all of the 50 States had received land for parks and recreation use.



- June 25, 1973: President Nixon announced the 325th parcel of Federal property for conveyance to the American people under his Legacy of Parks program. These properties now cover almost 54,000 acres and have an estimated market value of almost \$150 million.
- January 7, 1974: President Nixon announced 34 additional parcels of surplus property to the Legacy of Parks program bringing the total number of properties to 400, covering over 61,476 acres and having an estimated market value of \$165,677,676.
- April 22, 1974: President Nixon announced 23 additional parcels of surplus property to the Legacy of Parks program bringing the total number of properties to 423, covering 63,346 acres and having an estimated market value of \$168,276,676.
- June 7, 1974: President Nixon announced 17 additional parcels of surplus property to the Legacy of Parks program bringing the total number of properties to 440, covering 64,068 acres and having an estimated market value of \$173,408,676.
- September 26, 1974: President Ford announced 21 additional parcels of surplus property to the Legacy of Parks program bringing the total number of properties to 461, covering 66,562 acres and having an estimated market value of \$188,463,676.

#### Federal Property Council

On June 25, 1973, in recognition of the need to ensure that Federal real property policies are consistent with the overall objectives of the Government, the President issued an Executive Order creating the Federal Property Council. In addition to reviewing and developing property policies, the Council takes on the functions previously assigned to the Property Review Board which is abolished by the Executive Order.

#### Members of the Federal Property Council

Anne Armstrong, Chairman  
Counsellor to the President

Roy Ash  
Director, Office of Management and Budget

Dean Burch  
Counsellor to the President

J. Fred Buzhardt  
Counsel to the President

Russell Peterson  
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

Kenneth Rush  
Counsellor to the President for Economic Policy

Alan Greenspan  
Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers

William Timmons  
Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs



# GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

## PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

### Property

Mississippi Test Facility, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, approximately 328 acres. The property is located approximately 40 miles east of New Orleans, Louisiana, and 30 miles west of Biloxi, Mississippi.

### Recipient

Pearl River Basin Development District for park and recreation use under Public Law 91-485.

### Description of the Property

The property consists of approximately 328 acres of unimproved land located near the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission Airport (Stennis Field), in Hancock County, Mississippi. The land is wooded, and bounded on the north by the Jordan River. It is accessible via Texas Flat Road which is located on the southerly portion of the property.

### Park Use Plan

The property will be developed as an area park and recreation center to provide a variety of passive and active recreational facilities.

### Proposed Facilities

The initial development of the land calls for the renovation of swimming pool facilities, the provision of walking trails, 20 picnic areas, and boat ramp facilities on the Jordan River. Subsequent phases will provide additional picnic areas to include a pavilion, children's playgrounds, four tennis courts, extensive walking and bicycle trails, and the development of the river front area for recreational use.

### Development Plan and Estimated Costs

The development plan for conversion of the property is proposed to be accomplished in three phases beginning in 1975, and extending into 1981. The first phase beginning in January 1975, will cost an estimated \$254,000 with a total cost estimated of \$1,004,000.

### Population to be Served

User population will be drawn from a fifty mile radius. Estimated design capacity of the facility is 1,600 persons. It is anticipated that the facility will have about 500,000 visitations annually.

### History of the Property

The property was acquired in 1963, for use as a buffer zone for the test activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It was reported excess on March 12, 1974, as the result of an Executive Order 11724 survey conducted by the General Services Administration. It was determined

surplus to the needs of the Federal Government on April 22, 1974.

### Holding Agency

National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

### Approximate Value

Based on preliminary estimates, the value of the property should approximate \$57,500.



## Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the transfer of an additional 21 parcels of land in 16 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for park and recreation use under the Legacy of Parks program. This program, which is under the direction of the Federal Property Council, was inaugurated in March 1971 with the first cost-free transfer of \$1.1 million worth of Federal property to the County of Nassau, New York.

The 21 properties total 2,735.66 acres and have an estimated market value of \$11,017,000. According to the Federal Property Council, these 21 new properties will serve a population of approximately 4,647,600. Today's announcement brings to 482 the number of Legacy of Parks properties in all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

Included in the 21 properties are one in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Washington and Wyoming; and two in Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, and Texas.

LEGACY OF PARKS PROPERTIES

<u>Name, Location and Recipient</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Veterans Administration Hospital Fort Roots, North Little Rock, Arkansas Recipient: City of North Little Rock	18	\$ 150,000
Sierra Army Depot Herlong, Lassen County, California Recipient: State of California Department of Fish and Game	510	100,000
U.S. Forest Service Administrative Site Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado Recipient: City of Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Department	8	12,000
Frederica Docking Basin Murderkill River, Kent County, Delaware Recipient: State of Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control	1	200
Naval Air Station Richmond, Florida Recipient: Dade County	1,010	9,000,000
Fort Benning Columbus, Georgia Recipient: County of Chattahoochee	200	40,000
Fort Benning Columbus, Georgia Recipient: City of Columbus	200	750,000
Great Lakes Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Illinois Recipient: Foss Park District, North Chicago	1	14,000
Grain Storage Bin Site Number 199 Mt. Pulaski, Illinois Recipient: City of Mt. Pulaski	1	5,400

-more-



<u>Name, Location and Recipient</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Agricultural Research Center Beltsville, Maryland Recipient: Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	9	\$ 225,000
Kent Island Research Facility Queen Anne County, Maryland Recipient: State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources	31	31,000
Mississippi Test Facility Bay St. Louis, Mississippi Recipient: Pearl River Basin Development District	328	57,500
Lot No. 67, Barranca Mesa Subdivision No. 1 U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Los Alamos, New Mexico Recipient: County of Los Alamos	0.8	7,400
Camp Sherman Rifle Range Chillicothe, Ohio Recipient: City of Chillicothe	5	7,500
Fort Sill Military Reservation Comanche County, Oklahoma Recipient: County of Comanche	45	16,000
U.S. Army Reserve Outdoor Training Site Center Square, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Recipient: Worcester Township	9	37,000
Punta Salinas (Navy) Recreation Area Ward Sabana Seca, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico Recipient: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico	13	270,000
Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant McGregor, McLennan County, Texas Recipient: City of McGregor	82	64,000
Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant McGregor, Coryell County, Texas Recipient: Coryell County	201	100,000
Walla Walla Horse Pasture Walla Walla, Washington Recipient: City of Walla Walla	51	121,000
Department of Agriculture Farson Field Office Sweetwater County, Wyoming Recipient: Big Sandy Conservation District of Farson, Wyoming	12.58	9,000
TOTALS -- 21 Properties	2,735.66	\$ 11,017,000

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FOR LEGACY OF PARKS

482 Properties in 50 states, District of Columbia,  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam  
69,298 Approximate Acreage  
\$199,480,676 Estimated Market Value

# # #